

Welcome to Mildred G. Fields Library

Internet Policy for Patron Access

Revised 10/2008

The Mildred G. Fields Library is pleased to offer public use of the Internet as part of the library's mission of providing free and open access to material and services to meet the customers' personal, educational, and professional needs. The library's computer system provides the opportunity to integrate electronic resources from around the world with the library's other resources.

DISCLAIMER

- ❖ Information accessed through the Internet is not warranted by the library to be accurate, authoritative, factual, or complete. It is the customer's responsibility to verify the accuracy of any material found on the Internet.
- ❖ The Library staff cannot provide training concerning computer Internet use.
- ❖ Internet resources may contain material of a controversial nature. It is the responsibility of the user, parent, or legal guardian to determine what is appropriate.
- ❖ The Library uses filtering software in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, to prevent access to visual depictions that are: obscene, child pornography, or "harmful to minors".
The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h] [7], as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that
 - Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
 - Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals.
 - Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- ❖ While using library computers you may experience technical problems.
 - We will do what we can to correct the problems, but we do not have a technician onsite all of the time.
- ❖ Filtering software is not foolproof. Filters often block access to sites that users would consider both inoffensive and useful. If you do not find what you need, please do not hesitate to ask a librarian to unblock the filtered site.

GUIDELINES

- ❖ Customers must check out computers from the circulation desk and will not be allowed to move to another computer unless directed by the library staff.

- ❖ Parents and guardians MUST grant permission for any child 17 and under to use an Internet workstation at the library. CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MUST HAVE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRESENT AT THE COMPUTER WHILE THE INTERNET IS IN USE.
- ❖ Users must respect all U.S. Copyright Laws and Licensing Agreements pertaining to software, files and other resources obtained via the Internet.
- ❖ Printing costs are: 25 cents per page for black and white and 50 cents for color. Customers will be responsible for paying for any pages they print out.
- ❖ Downloading of images of files from the Internet to the computer's hard drive is strictly prohibited. Customers may purchase a formatted floppy disk if they choose to do so.
- ❖ If all computers are full, each customer will be given a 30 minute time limit for computer usage.
- ❖ No chat rooms or online game playing is allowed.
- ❖ Destruction or damage to computer equipment due to willful misuse will result in legal action.
- ❖ Adults may not access material that is considered to be obscene by community standards TCA Title 39, Chapter17, Part 9.
- ❖ Patrons must have a library card to use the computers. If they do not have a library card we will need to make copy of their driver's license or ID.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Library does not monitor an individual's use of any sites except for length of use in order to ensure equal opportunity of access for everyone, or when materials displayed on the screen is not appropriate in a public environment and other customers are violated.

In general, the Library will treat information on computers as confidential. Requests for disclosure of information regarding an individual's use will be honored only if approved by the Library director, when authorized by the owners of the information, or when requested by local, state, or federal law.

VIOLATIONS

Using the Library's computer network and Internet is always welcome. If it is determined that a customer is violating others' right by viewing inappropriate material, is behaving in an inappropriate manner, or not following the guidelines listed above, the customer will lose computer privileges and could face possible legal action.

Agree

Disagree